AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Method for the removal of particulate matter from aqueous suspension comprising the steps of:

~~establishing~~ measuring a value of pH of the suspension and determining a polarity of Zeta potential of particles in the suspension at the measured pH value;

~~providing~~ selecting a porous ceramic filter having a membrane layer consisting of at least a metal-oxide with a Zeta potential at the pH value of the suspension having same polarity of the Zeta potential as the particles in the suspension; ~~and~~

passing the suspension through the porous filter; and

withdrawing a filtrate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the suspension is passed in cross-flow through the filter.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the particles comprise yeast cells.

5. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the suspension is selected from beer and wine.

6. (Currently amended) A system ~~System~~ for cross-flow microfiltration, comprising:

~~of~~ an aqueous suspension of particles to be retained, said particles having a sign of polarity and said aqueous suspension having a pH value~~, said system comprising~~;

a porous ceramic filter having a membrane layer consisting of a least one metal-oxide, said membrane layer being selected to have ~~having~~ a Zeta potential with the same sign of polarity as the particles at the pH value of the aqueous suspension during filtration;; and

a pump for pumping the aqueous suspension through the porous ceramic filter.

7. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 3-4, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is TiO_2 (anatase).

8. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 4-5, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of TiO_2 (anatase), ZrO_2, and Al_2O_3.

9. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 5-7, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of ZrO_2, Al_2O_3, and $MgAl_2O_4$.

10. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 7-8, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of ZrO_2 and $MgAl_2O_4$.

11. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 8-9, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is $MgAl_2O_4$.

12. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 9-10, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a positive polarity, and the metal-oxide is $MgAl_2O_4$ (400°C).

13. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 3-4, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a negative polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of TiO_2 (rutil) and WO_3.

14. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 4-5, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a negative polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of TiO_2 (rutil), WO_3, and SiO_2.

15. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 5-6, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a negative polarity, and the metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of TiO_2 (rutil) and WO_3.

16. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the suspension is about 6-8, the Zeta potential of the particles in the suspension has a negative polarity, and the metal-oxide is TiO_2 (anatase).